



JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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Clean Indoor Air Act (RCW 70.160 — Initiative 901) **How the Smoke-free Law Will Be Enforced** **Frequently Asked Questions**

Who will enforce the law?

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is responsible for enforcing the law with respect to businesses. Local law enforcement agencies are responsible for enforcing the law with respect to individuals.

How will the law be enforced?

JCPH staff will site violations observed during routine inspections and will respond to reports of violations from the public. Violations must be directly observed by JCPH staff to result in sanctions.

What is considered a violation of the law?

Violations of the law include: 1) smoking or evidence of smoking inside a public space or workplace, including the presence of smoke, cigarette ashes or cigarette butts; 2) lack of "No Smoking" signs that are clearly visible at each entrance; 3) no action taken to prevent smoking with 25 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes.

Are vending machines in bars and restaurants illegal since smoking is prohibited?

No. Cigarettes may still be purchased from a vending machine but cannot be smoked in the bar or restaurant.

How do I deal with people who want to smoke?

Tell the individual that the law prohibits smoking indoors and direct him/her to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open.

What should I do if someone starts smoking in an area where smoking is prohibited?

The owner, operator, manager, or person in charge should make a reasonable effort to obtain compliance. Tell the individual that the law prohibits smoking inside your business and ask them to relocate to an area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open.

What should I do about a customer who refuses to comply with the law?

It is the responsibility of the business owner to inform the individual that he/she is in violation of the law. If a customer refuses to stop smoking or relocate to an area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open, contact your local law enforcement agency (City Police or County Sheriff).

What are the penalties to a business?

Your business can be sanctioned every day that a violation occurs. Repeated violations may result in fines, food service establishment permit suspension and/or court filings.

What is the 25-foot rule and how do I comply?

The intent of the 25-foot rule is to prevent smoke from entering a building. Smoking is prohibited in outside areas that are less than twenty-five (25) feet away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open. When these areas are owned by or within the control of a business, such as a deck, the person in charge is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law.

Where can I support employees or customers who want to quit smoking?

Contact the Washington State Tobacco Quitline at 1-877-270-STOP (7867) or quitline.com

*** This summary is not intended to be comprehensive or to provide an authoritative legal interpretation***

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